GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1362
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2016
Grant of Market Access to European Union
Kothapalli Smt. Geetha

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian industry is ready to grant greater market access to European Union (EU) firms in areas such as automobiles, wines and spirits in return for gains in garments, automobiles, automobile components and services sector in a bid to end a deadlock on the proposed EU Free Trade Agreement;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has made any progress and has seen some forward movement in the FTA negotiations;
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(e) whether EU has asked India to substantially bring down the high duties on automobiles as a pre-condition for resumption of the FTA negotiations and if so, the details and the present status thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (e): The India - European Union (EU)bilateral Broad based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) negotiations are underway and 16 rounds of negotiations have been held so far. Recently, two rounds of stocktaking meetings have taken place on 18th January, 2016 (in New Delhi) and 22nd February, 2016 (in Brussels).As is consistent with previous and established practice in ongoing negotiations, disclosure before finalisation of the Agreement may adversely affect India's position in the negotiations.
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